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Asa language

The **Asa** (Aasá) language, commonly rendered **Aasax** (also rendered as Aasá, Aasáx, Aramanik, Asak, Asax, Assa, Asá[2]), was spoken by the Asa people of Tanzania. The language is extinct; ethnic Assa in northern Tanzania remember only a few words they overheard their elders use, and none ever used it themselves. Little is known of the language; what is recorded was probably Aasa lexical words used in a register of Maasai like the mixed language Mbugu.

Asa	
Aasá	
Region	Tanzania
Ethnicity	Asa people
Extinct	1952-1956
Language family	Afro-Asiatic? ▪ Cushitic? ▪ Rift? ▪ East Rift ▪ **Asa**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	aas
Glottolog	aasa1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/aasa1238)[1]

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Classification

Asa is usually classified as Cushitic, most closely related to Kw'adza. However, it might have retained a non-Cushitic layer from an earlier language shift, and might be best left unclassified.[3]

The Aramanik (Laramanik) people once spoke Asa, but shifted to Nandi (as opposed to Maasai).

Vocabulary

- wataka - all
- buʕurita - burn
- dah - claw
- ga - cloud
- ki=te - die
- wa-t--dog
- rakaš-dry
- yatara -drink
- haǯa-t -earth
- ʔag- ~ ʔag-im- - eat
- ila-t - - eye
- ʔoreʔ-ek -far
- maʔa - water

[4]

Notes

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Aasax" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/aasa1238). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. "Aasáx" (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/aas). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2019-07-17.
3. "Towards a new classification of African languages" (http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/equipes/index.asp?Langue=EN&Equipe=50&Page=Themes) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171224102142/http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/equipes/index.asp?Langue=EN&Equipe=50&Page=Themes) 2017-12-24 at the Wayback Machine, *Linguistic Contribution to the History of Sub-Saharan Africa,* University of Lyons
4. https://archive.org/stream/rosettaproject_irk_swadesh-1/irk.txt

- Petrollino, Sara & Maarten Mous, 2010, *Recollecting Words and Expressions in Aasá, a Dead Language in Tanzania*

External links

- Aasax basic lexicon at the Global Lexicostatistical Database (http://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?root=new100&morpho=0&basename=new100\csh\scu&limit=-1&encoding=utf-eng)

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